

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in the present application.

It is respectfully submitted that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated November 6, 2006.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by *Usui* (U.S. 2005/0082577).

However, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application claims priority to JP 2003-088139, filed on March 27, 2003, which is **before** the filing date of *Usui*. Therefore, without approaching the substance of this rejection, Applicants herein submit a verified English translation of the priority document JP 2003-088139.

Accordingly, the anticipation rejection of claims 1-4 and 6 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Application No. 10/777,189
Attorney Docket No. 042107

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Response filed: February 5, 2007

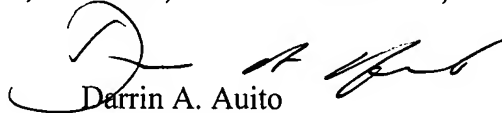
Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned remarks, Applicants submit that the claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Certified Translation of Priority Document JP 2003-088139